



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hugh Armstrong
Staying Connected
President

As summer winds down and we look forward to a winter in paradise, it is a good time to reflect on all of the tremendous support you, our volunteers, have provided to your neighbors who needed a helping hand through a tumultuous time. The pandemic has presented new challenges for all of us.

For many of our members, it created a void in their daily lives as lockdowns increased their isolation and loneliness. Staying Connected volunteers reached out to all members to check on their welfare and to see if they needed any special help.

Thanks to all who made those calls and those who have continued to volunteer to support our neighbors. The following messages are for you:

A resident who was isolated during the pandemic said *“A special thank you to the volunteers for all their pleasant phone calls during this trying and lonely time. They lifted my spirit with each call.”*

Another member tells us *“ Thank you for your services. Your organization is a life-line for me and it enables me to be independent while living in Sun City.”*

Thanks to all the volunteers who have kept Staying Connected up and running through 2020 and 2021, both those who provided services to our members and all of you who worked tirelessly in administrative roles to keep the organization running. As we return to a new normal, we're hoping this newsletter brings you a sense that we as a family have weathered the storm and brighter days are coming.

Now where do we go from here? Our members continue to need our help to address challenges they are facing. So as you return to a more normal life, please consider recommitting to your neighbors by increasing your volunteerism with Staying Connected. For those who have stayed the course, please continue your great work.

I am both proud and humbled to serve as your President. Together, you are making a real difference in the lives of so many.

— Hugh Armstrong, President

SPOTLIGHT ON LIAISONS

There is so much that goes on behind the scenes at Staying Connected! A program you may not be familiar with is our Liaison Program. The Liaisons are a dedicated group of volunteers who call between 10 and 14 members each month to check in, see if there are new ways we can assist them, confirm that all our information is current, and just provide a friendly voice.

Each Liaison has a specific set of members she calls and each member is called once a quarter. Having an ongoing relationship with the same members has proved popular with both Liaisons and members. Liaisons complete a brief written summary of any information that needs updating, which is then entered into Volgistics for the use of other volunteers who are interacting with the members with transportation, home visits and home maintenance.

Liaisons report that they love getting to know “their” members more fully, and that they can make the calls from home and on their timetable. Most important, they all agree that they get more back from the members than they give. Successful Liaisons must be familiar with all our services, be good listeners, be empathetic, have basic spreadsheet computer skills, and have a sense of humor.

Our Liaison Manager, Sue Lutz, is always looking for new Liaisons, so reach out to Sue at liaison_mgr@stayingconnectedschh.org if you’d like to know more!

THE RESOURCE HUB NEEDS YOU!

The Staying Connected Resource Hub is the heart of our organization, where members, volunteers and non-member residents can get questions answered and pick up pamphlets from community services, where members request Staying Connected services, where daily Reassuring Calls are completed, and where we present the public face of the organization.

Hub volunteers thrive on detail work, have strong computer and phone skills, are good listeners, are skilled multitaskers and are happiest when they’re busy. If you like schedules but also enjoy each shift being different, the Hub may be for you. The 3-hour shifts are clearly defined, so time blocking for your day is easy.

Our Hub Coordinator, Barbara Swan, will answer any questions you may have, so reach out to Barbara at hub.coord@stayingconnectedschh.org for information.

OUR FIRST EVER SILENT VIRTUAL AUCTION

What’s more fun than an auction? Especially one that you can participate in from the comfort of your couch!

A small, dedicated group led by Board Member Mary O’Brien pulled off a terrific event this past spring that helped fill a big gap in fundraising activities cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

With 190 donated items ranging from gift baskets to gorgeous photos, ceramics, stained glass and original art from Sun City clubs and groups, craftspeople and artisans, to jewelry, rounds of golf and so much more, the bidding was hot and heavy and resulted in our exceeding our ambitious goal of \$10,000.

Well done, All!

READY TO EXPLORE NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

Consider an administrative assignment in IT, Marketing/Fundraising, Accounting, or Member Relations. Opportunities exist everywhere for you to apply your skills, experience, and compassion to help our neighbors! Dotti Laas, our Volunteer Coordinator, can help you explore how you might help in these areas or any others that may interest you. For more information and training dates contact Dotti at volunteer.coord@stayingconnectedschh.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Board of Directors member Lisbet Duponte has undertaken the creation of a Neighborhood Ambassador Program, the goal of which is to establish in each Sun City neighborhood an ambassador who would serve as our spokesperson in their neighborhood.

Lisbet hopes to enlist some current SC volunteers (who are already advocates for us), or residents who recognize the good work that Staying Connected does, and are willing to do such things as educate neighbors about our Vision and services, encouraging residents to volunteer, identifying neighbors who may be interested in becoming members, and generally acting as liaison between the neighborhood and Staying Connected.

Lisbet started introducing this program to the largest neighborhoods, as we believe this is where the need for educating residents is the greatest. As of October 1, we have 39 neighborhoods that are working with us, and the hope to present the idea at an NRC meeting for the neighborhood reps, too.

Contact Lisbet at lisbetduponte@stayingconnectedschh.org for more information on this great program.

PUT ON A SMILE FOR STAYING CONNECTED

Do you use Amazon to shop for items you need? Now there is a way to do your shopping on Amazon through their Amazon Smile page and also help Staying Connected. Staying Connected is a registered 501 (c)(3) charity and registered with Amazon Smile as a charitable organization. All you need to do is log onto smile.amazon.com and follow the easy steps to select Staying Connected as your charity of choice. The only difference between Amazon and Amazon Smile is that your purchases on Amazon Smile will generate a payment of 1/2% of your order total to Staying Connected. Please consider becoming an Amazon Smile user soon!

A FINAL THOUGHT

All of us at Staying Connected are part of an Active Adult community, where there is much to do and many ways we can spend our time. But as expressed by so many of you, our volunteers, we get so much more from our members than we can ever give them. As we enter our seventh year of operation, Staying Connected volunteers continue to change the lives of Sun City residents when life throws them a curveball. So wear your Staying Connected name badge proudly and be as proud of yourselves as we are of you. Thank you!